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# EXILES RELATE LIFE OF FEAR UNDER CASTRO

## Food, Clothes Scarce, Money Abundant

Miami, Dec. 28 (AP)—What is life like under Fidel Castro?

Money is abundant, but essential foods and clothing are scarce. Government vigilance and fear of the police are those who oppose the regime, but physical violence is rare. Nonconformity can cost a man his job.

These were the views expressed by many of the 22 relatives of Cuban prisoners who arrived here yesterday aboard the freighter African Pilot.

### Food Is Scarce

"There is money, but food is hard to come by," said Mrs. Norge Portuondo, a teacher in Spanish in a Santiago teacher's college. "You need government authorization to buy good clothes or luxury items, and it's easier to do without than stand in the long lines."

Mrs. Portuondo, 36, whose husband got permission to leave Cuba one month after their marriage, said that after he was captured in the invasion she tried to resign from her job.

"They wouldn't accept my resignation because there is a shortage of teachers," she said.

Mrs. Aida Rodriguez Valladares, who arrived with her husband and two children, said, "One is continuously under a severe nervous strain because of the vigilance. It's worse than the food shortages."

The food problem, she said, "was a question of simply eating without the extras we used to enjoy."

### Meat, Rice Rationed

Among these were the traditional Cuban spicy sauces.

"Onions are hard to come by and tomato ketchup is non-

were the basic ingredients for sauces that went with meat, rationed three-fourths of a pound a person a week, and rice, limited to 6 pounds a person a month.

Mrs. Librada Muniz, 37, wife of a prisoner, expressed the feelings of several passengers toward civilian neighborhood defense committees.

"Every day their vigilance got worse, especially after the invasion," she said. "I was insulted by them for being a wife of a prisoner."

She added, however, that "one of the committee members, a woman who lived on the corner, helped me get papers to leave the country. Without her I could not have gotten out."

### Expelled from School

An 18-year-old girl, who said she wouldn't give her name because her parents are in Havana, told of being expelled from high school two years ago "for my attitude against the government. I haven't worked or done anything since. I lived with my parents."

Mrs. Rodriguez Valladares said she kept her children out of school the last two terms to keep them from being brainwashed. "School authorities would inquire about the children, but I put them off with the excuse we had secured permission to leave Cuba."

Francisco Leal Cruz, 31, former chief of telegraph service in Santa Clara, said that once he criticized the regime in a conversation with a co-worker and the co-worker reported the conversation to superiors.

"I refused to join the militia and was forced to resign as chief of telegraph services and take a lower echelon job," he said. "I was for Castro at the start, but his communism and his methods changed me."

### Arrives with Wife

Leal Cruz, who arrived with his wife and child, said—as did many others—that the great majority of the Cuban population is against Castro.

He was asked why there had been no uprising or trouble during the recent Cuban crisis.

"The police watch us constantly," his wife said. "We couldn't move during the crisis."

Augustin La Torre, 55, owner of a small farm in Camaguey, hid on a neighbor's farm after his son was captured in the April, 1961, invasion.

"I hid for three months," he said. "I was afraid. I heard that other relatives had been picked up. My wife stayed on for 10 days, then she came for her, and after three months returned."

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